

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1001

Introduced by: Representatives Thompson, Blake, Bolin, Burg, Dennert, Elliott, Engels, Fargen, Feinstein, Gibson, Hunt, Killer, Lucas, Lust, McLaughlin, Pitts, Rausch, Romkema, Schlekeway, Solberg, Sorenson, Street, Van Gerpen, Vanderlinde, and Wink and Senators Adelstein, Ahlers, Jerstad, Olson (Russell), and Tieszen

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Commending and honoring Greg Mortenson for his sixteen years of visionary work in building schools and relationships in the most remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

WHEREAS, Greg Mortenson, a University of South Dakota graduate, decided sixteen years ago, after a chance encounter with a young girl in a village in Pakistan, to improve education and literacy in Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mortenson began his quest by soliciting spare change from American school students to fund his first school, and has since, through the Montana-based Central Asia Institute that he co-founded, built or established forty-nine schools in Afghanistan and eighty-two schools in Pakistan, mainly for girls; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mortenson has chronicled his work in two New York Times best-selling books, has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and was honored with Pakistan's "Star of Pakistan," that country's highest civil award:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Greg Mortenson be commended and honored for his outstanding contribution to our global community through his efforts in promoting education and peace in Central Asia.

